

Message Text

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43

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11

EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20

DOT-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-04

AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: LOS: PRESS ACCOUNTS OF BRAZILIAN POSITION

1. TWO EVIDENTLY AUTHORITATIVE NEWS STORIES ON BRAZIL AND THE CARACAS CONFERENCE APPEARED JUNE 12, EACH IN ONE OF BRAZIL'S LEADING NEWSPAPERS. WHILE THE ACCOUNTS DIVERGE WITH REGARD TO SOME DETAILS, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE REPORTERS' PERCEPTIBLY INCOMPLETE GRASP OF THE ISSUES, THEY AGREE ON SOME BASIC POINTS:

A. BRAZIL WILL NOT ABANDON ITS "THESIS" OF 200 MILES OF TERRITORIAL SEA, AN EXTREME POSITION, AND THUS WILL PROBABLY NOT SIGN A CARACAS AGREEMENT:

B. THE COUNTRY AT THE OTHER EXTREME IS THE SOVIET UNION, THE US POSITION HAVING BECOME

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MORE FLEXIBLE:

C. BRAZIL CAN TAKE SOME SATISFACTION IN THAT ITS POSITION HELPED TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR COASTAL STATES' EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OVER AT LEAST SOME RESOURCES OUT TO 200 MILES.

2. BOTH ACCOUNTS ALSO DISCUSSED WHAT WAS IDENTIFIED BY THE REPORTERS AN "INTERNATIONAL MARITIME TRIBUNAL" TO BE PROPOSED BY THE US. WHILE THE JORNAL DO BRASIL HEADLINED ITS STORY THAT BRAZIL WOULD OPPOSE THE CREATION OF SUCH A BODY, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO NOTED ONLY THAT THE PROPOSAL COULD OBTAIN WIDE SUPPORT.

3. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, IN AN EDITORIAL OF JUNE 15, CONTINUED ITS STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE CONCEPT OF THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT. THE EDITORIAL FOUND PERSUASIVE THE ARGUMENT THAT THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA CONFLICTS WITH EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WOULD SHARPLY LIMIT FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, AND POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTIES BRAZIL WOULD FACE IN ATTEMPTING TO POLICE A 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. WITH PERU SOFTENING ITS ORIGINAL EXTREME POSITION ON THE TERRITORIAL SEA, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES, ANY COUNTRY THAT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THAT CONCEPT RUNS THE RISK OF BEING "UNDESIRABLY ISOLATED," AND HAVING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT INTERPRETED AS "EXTEMPORANEOUS NATIONALISM." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT THE PATRIMONIAL SEA CONCEPT IS CAPABLE OF PROTECTING THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF COASTAL STATES WHILE REMAINING COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE NAVIGATION.

CRIMMINS

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